From

A-1 COMICS
5800 Madison Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95841
(916) 331-9263

A Comics Specialty Outlet

New's The Key Word Here

When the ***New Mutants*** were first introduced over seven years ago, a lot of fans dismissed them as "the X-kids." The series has gone through a lot of changes since then, moving from its initial status as a modest mutant adventure book to a brief stint as one of Marvel's most avant-garde titles under the artistic hands of Bill Sienkiewicz. In recent years, though, ***New Mutants*** has settled into a comfortable predictability that didn't necessarily lose it any readers--but it didn't draw any new fans to the book, either.

All that changes on April 12th, when writer Louise Simonson and artists Rob Liefeld and Hilary Barta make a move that should take ***New Mutants*** from its role as a secondary mutant title to a position as one of the most exciting Marvel books being published every month.

Liefeld told ***CSN*** readers in an interview a few months ago about some of the plans he and Simonson had; ***New Mutants #90*** brings all those plans to fruition with a new leader, new costumes, and a new direction for the series.

In ***New Mutants #90,*** new leader Cable takes the team back to the ruins of Xavier's Mansion, where he begins training the team again in the subterranean bunkers beneath the house. Does this mean a Danger Room sequence? You betcha!

In the same issue, Rictor meets up with a new, deadlier-than-ever Caliban, who has been groomed by Apocalypse to be the first Hound (and all this will tie in to the upcoming "Days of Future Present" storyline appearing in all the mutant annuals. Caliban isn't the most serious threat the New Mutants face though--not when Sabre-Tooth is back in action in this issue!

Finally, ***New Mutants #90*** will detail the rise to prominence of the Mutant Liberation Force, the New Mutants' major adversary, akin to the X-Men's Hellfire Club nemesis in those classic ***X-Men*** tales.

And if all this isn't enough to elevate ***New Mutants*** to star status, there's also the Liefeld-McFarlane covers that grace each issue of the series--Todd-fans won't want to miss this maintenance dose of McFarlane artwork that will hold them over until the McFarlane Spider-Man book debuts this summer.

by Cliff Biggers

NUMBER 142 COMIC SHOP NEWS 3 • 14 • 90

From

A Comics Specialty Outlet

This Won't Be Such a Rude Awakening For Frank Miller Fans

Okay, you know what graphic novels are; you know what games modules are. Are you ready for a new term? Here goes: in March, TSR will be releasing its first "graphic module."

So what is a graphic module? It's a combination of a graphic novel and a games module. And TSR is debuting the new format with quite an impressive initial effort.

Buck Rogers: Rude Awakening is sure to be an eye-catcher as soon as it hits the racks. TSR has gotten fan-favorite Frank Miller to supply the cover art for the module, with painted color by Richard Ory.

The graphic novel itself, a 60-page Buck Rogers adventure, is pretty impressive as well. TSR has brought together writers Flint Dille and Buzz Dixon; joining them are fan-fave artists Paul Smith and Frank Cirrocco. This impressive quartet has produced an all-new graphic novel to introduce fans to the 25th-Century world of Buck Rogers.

But that's not all you get for your money; games fans will also enjoy the 7 pages of full-color games content designed by Tom Wham. That's right--you get games and comics for one $12.95 pricetag!

Buck Rogers: Rude Awakening is the first of a series of graphic modules from TSR--and boyoboy, what a way to start things off!

by Cliff Biggers

Fantagor Team Explores Worlds of Turtles and Mutants

Fantagor fans might notice that there's a brief hiatus in releases from this company; don't worry, though, Fantagor hasn't left comics publishing. Jan Strnad and Richard Corben merely took a couple of months off from their roles as publishers to help produce a special full-color issue of Mirage Press's ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles***. Now that they've finished with that project, Fantagor is already looking ahead to its next title, ***Son of Mutant World.***

"Writing the Turtles was a real kick," Strnad said. "The story is called **Turtles Take Time** and is, yes, another time travel story.

"In this one, the Turtles receive a time cube that Renet 'borrowed' from Lord Simultaneous to go back to pirate days. The cube is 'anamorphically autosynchronous,' so Michaelangelo gets an Errol Flynn moustache, Leonardo gets an eye patch, Donatello gets a peg leg, and Raphael gets rotten teeth. Things go wrong and the boys end up on a whirlwind flight through time, metamorphosizing all the way.

"**Turtles Take Time** should appear at about the same time as the live action Turtles movie," Strnad said.

But what about Strnad's and Corben's new sequel to their popular mutant world series?

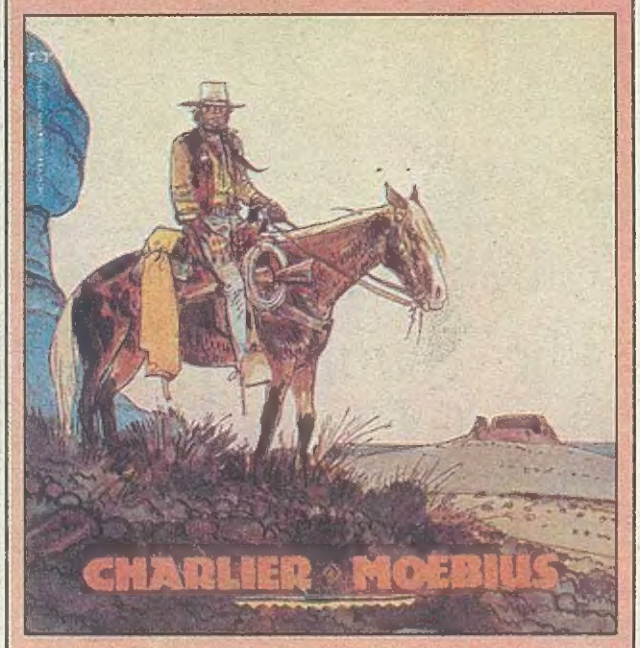
"***Mutant World*** has been one of the best received Corben/Strnad collaborations, and it remains my personal favorite," said Strnad. "So when Richard Corben asked if I'd like to write a sequel, I didn't hesitate for a minute!"

The sequel was given a name that harkens back to the classic days of horror films: ***Son of Mutant World.*** It's a five-issue limited series slated to begin in April 1990. ***Son of Mutant World*** will be published in full color by Fantagor Press in the same format as Corben's previous series, ***Den.***

The story picks up where ***Mutant World*** left off; each issue will feature an installment of the ***Son of Mutant World*** storyline and a back-up story. Some of the backups are done by Corben and others are done by guest artists; the backup story in the first issue, for example, is written and illustrated by Bruce Jones.

by Alex Kirkland

Graphitti Becomes Blueberry Cobbler



Graphitti Designs is set to follow up its successful three-volume Moebius Graphic Novel Series hardcover limited editions with a fourth volume cobbling together in a single handsome edition Lt. Blueberry's first two Marvel graphic novels. ***Chihuahua Pearl*** and ***Ballad for a Coffin*** will both be included in the full-color hardcover signed and numbered graphic novel; it will carry a $45.95 pricetag. Moebius will only sign and number 1500 copies of this volume, so if you're interested, let your local comic shop know as soon as possible--and tell 'em that ***Comic Shop News*** sent you!...

NEWSBRIEFS

GRANT & SEMEIKS SPELL SUCCESS FOR THE DEMON

Jack Kirby's ***Demon*** has popped up in a variety of places in the last few years; he's made appearances in the pages of ***Swamp Thing***, in ***Detective Comics***, and in the pages of his own limited series. He finally finds a permanent home in late May: ***The Demon #1***, the premiere issue of an ongoing Demon series.

The Demon isn't a particularly likable fellow; he's an evil being who enjoys--and abuses--his powers. The Demon shares his existence with Jason Blood, his host body; Blood would most dearly liked to be free from the curse of Etrigan, but that's not likely to be...

The Demon is written by **Alan Grant**, who has also written the character's appearances in ***Detective Comics***. The series will be illustrated by **Val Semeiks**, artist for last year's ***Batman Annual*** and for Marvel's ***Conan*** comic series until recently. Since Grant is also the current writer of ***Detective Comics*** and the Demon is based there, look for many of the supporting characters from Detective to appear in the new title's pages--including Batman himself, who pops up in ***Demon #3***. Each issue of ***The Demon*** is priced at $1.50; the first issue is set to ship on May 24th.

ALIENS IN DISGUISE?

Dark Horse Presents #42 is a book that should have something for everyone; this popular Dark Horse anthology title will feature a new story highlighting one of Dark Horse's most famous licensed comics "stars" as well as a preview to the sequel to one of Kitchen Sink's most critically-acclaimed works! ***Dark Horse Presents #42*** will cover-feature Aliens to accompany the premiere installment of a two-issue ***Aliens*** story by **Paul Guinan**. Guinan is also the co-creator of Heartbreakers. Meanwhile,e **Dan Burr** and **Jim Vance** will present a story in their ***Kings in Disguise*** saga that serves as a lead-in for a sequel to this Harvey and Eisner Award winning series. As if this isn't enough to put ***Dark Horse Presents #42*** on everyone's must have list, the issue will also feature the penultimate chapter in **Bruce Zick**'s interstellar myth-odyssey, ***Argosy!*** This 32-page black-and-white comic with a full-color cover will ship in early May.

PUNISHER FANS REWARDED

The Punisher film, which has been in limbo for almost a year now, has finally found a distribution home; that means that fans can look for the film to make its theatrical debut in June of this year. While the **Dolph Lundgren** film will probably please ***Punisher*** fans, there's one benefit associated with this film's release that should thrill comics readers: the **Carl Potts-Brent Anderson** motion picture adaptation, which most agree transcends the film, will finally appear in comics shops in bookshelf format, standard format, and black-and-white magazine format editions. This gives Marvel an extra one-two box office punch, since the new release date for the ***Captain America*** film has it following the Punisher film by six or eight weeks. ***CSN*** will bring you more precise information about the ***Punisher*** film and adaptation release dates as soon as that information becomes available.

LITTLE NEMO'S MARTIAN CHRONICLES

The third volume of ***The Complete Little Nemo in Slumberland*** is being prepared for April shipping; like the two prior volumes, this handsome book will feature quality reproductions (in full color!) of **Winsor McCay**'s ground-breaking strip. This 104 page volume will reprint the famous "Mars" sequence from the ***Little Nemo*** strip, among other things. The hardcover will be priced at $35. Incidentally, Fantagraphics reports that the demand for this series has been so strong that the first volume of ***Little Nemo*** is already totally out of print. Fantagraphics intends to reprint the book before next Christmas--but if you've intended to buy a copy and have been putting it off, this may be the time to latch on to one while you can!

THE PROBLEMS OF MODERN MAN

The world has plenty of problems of its own, and some of them seem far more dangerous than the most deadly supervillain. That's why **Brian Von Alten** has forsaken super-powered nemeses for more real dilemmas like toxic waste disposal, deforestations, and other environmentally-aware troubles.

Modern Man, a 96-page graphic album, features a wide selection of environmentally-oriented Von Alten strips that originally appeared in ***Earth First!***, ***Art for Environment's Sake***, ***Utne Reader***, and ***the Mother Earth News***. While the book is published by OK Press and Mountain Moving Press, its comic-shop distribution is being handled by Eclipse Books. Priced at $9.95, only 2500 copies of ***Modern Man*** will be available through comic shops, so if you want to be sure of getting one, then let your local comic shop know as soon as possible--and tell them that ***CSN*** sent you!

MARVEL MA-TELLS MORE ABOUT BARBIE LINE

Marvel's upcoming ***Barbie*** comics will virtually make up a line unto themselves, based upon Marvel's announcements at the IADD Conference. **Carol Kalish** revealed that Marvel will issue four monthly Barbie books, a different title each week; the ***Barbie*** line should begin in late 1990. These books are aimed at a market that Marvel hasn't previously had much success with--the six to ten-year old girl market. These monthlies will sell for r $1 each.

In addition to the four monthly ***Barbie*** titles, Marvel also plans to add four quarterly ***Barbie*** series, which will mean another title every month. The 48-page quarterly comics will sell for $1.50 or $1.75. They'll be accompanied by 64-page perfectbound annuals priced at $2.

Marvel will be very strong in its support for this Barbie line. They plan to promote the comics via direct mail to Barbie fan club members and through consumer advertising in the Barbie magazine and other markets. They'll follow the comics line with ***Barbie*** trade paperback reprints, and may even offer point of purchase items such as dolls further down the line.

DOES OIL OF OLAY KNOW ABOUT THIS?

Looking for a good treatment for old-looking skin? Contact Rad, the nemesis of Femforce; she has a formula that's sure to please! Furthermore, it's fully tested and guarantees results.

So just who has this formula been tested on? None other than Femforce, who become Teen Femforce in ***Femforc e #24***, on sale in March. Oh, yeah--if you're wondering if there's any superhero action in this issue, the answer is a definite yes; after all, when you have Rip-Jaw leading a government hit squad in an attempt to kill Rad, you know there's going to be some heavy-duty squabbling... **James Misson, The Count,** and **Mark Propst** bring you all the action in ***Femforce #24***, a $2.50, 44-page black-and-white comic with a full-color cover.

CLASSICS IN MARCH
Accept no substitutes — look for the official Classics Illustrated® logo!
CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED

Alexandre Dumas
The Count of Monte Cristo
Classics Illustrated #7:
The Count of Monte Cristo
Alexandre Dumas' swashbuckling adventure story, adapted by Steven Grant and dashingly illustrated by Dan Spiegle.
Robert Louis Stevenson
Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde
Classics Illustrated #8:
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
Robert Louis Stevenson's horrific tale, adapted and eerily illustrated by John K. Snyder III.
CLASSIC READING • CLASSIC ENTERTAINMENT • CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED®
BERKLEY FIRST PUBLISHING
© 1990 The Berkley Publishing Group and First Publishing, Inc. Classics Illustrated® is a registered trademark of Frawley Corporation. "The Classics Illustrated logo is a trademark of the Berkley Publishing Group and First Publishing, Inc. "Berkley" and the stylized "B" are trademarks of Berkley Publishing Group. "First Publishing" and the stylized "1F" are trademarks of First Publishing, Inc.

COMIC SHOP NEWS
1353 Gray Rock Drive
Marietta, GA 30066
(404) 924-9369
Editors
Cliff Biggers & Ward Batty
Publisher
ParaGraphics
Printing
STAR
Acworth, GA
©1990 ParaGraphics All Rights Reserved

NEWSBRIEFS

KITCHEN SINK GETS THE SPIRIT!

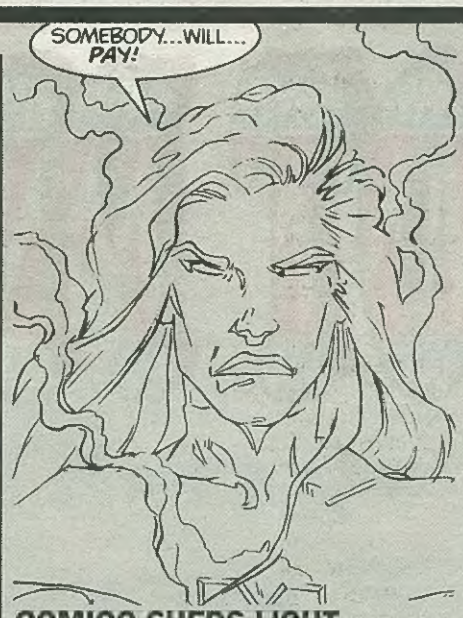
Kitchen Sink is all set to celebrate the Spirit's 50th anniversary in a variety of ways, according to Capital City Distributor's ***Internal Correspondence***. ***The Spirit Casebook***, already announced in ***CSN***, is set for March release; it will be followed by a full-color trading card set, a collector's edition button set, a series of Spirit figures similar to the Kitchen Sink Omaha figure, a series of high-quality silkscreen posters, a series of new Spirit t-shirts, a collection of Eisner interviews called ***The Men Who Made the Comics***, and a new collection of Spirit dailies. In addition, Kitchen Sink plans a reprinting of a 1949 Will Eisner baseball comic with a baseball card bound in, and a new 216-page **Will Eisner** graphic novel "that promises to be his most personal yet," according to ***Internal Correspondence.*** Later down the line, Kitchen Sink is investigating the possibility of deluxe Spirit boxed sets similar to the EC Library sets.

NOW TAKES RALPH SNART INTO THIRD DIMENSION

Ralph Snart Adventures is approaching its fourth anniversary, so what better way to celebrate it than to offer Ralph his third dimension? That's just what Now Comics is doing this June when they release a special ***3-D Ralph Snart Adventures*** comic book. This anniversary issue will feature 24 3-D pages and will include a free 3-D viewer. The storyline will feature the sort of zany action that Ralph Snart is known for, highlighted by a (no joke, guys) burping contest.

THE CRIMESTOPPER'S ON THE CASE AT GLADSTONE

For several years, Blackthorne Comics reprinted the chronological run of ***Dick Tracy*** comic strips in comic book format; ironically, the company discontinued its reprint series just prior to this year's ***Dick Tracy*** bonanza. Fans who have missed seeing Dick Tracy's classic exploits on the comics shop racks will be able to look for that beak-nosed visage once again in May when Gladstone releases ***The Original Dick Tracy #1***, the first 64-page issue of a regular series of full color strip reprints. The first issue reprints the complete story "Dick Tracy Vs. Mrs. Pruneface" from 1943. This story brings Dick Tracy face-to-face with death in a battle with one of the most evil villainesses he's had the misfortune to face. Look for ***The Original Dick Tracy #1*** by **Chester Gould** in comic shops in mid-May; each issue of the bi-monthly series will be priced at $1.95.



COMICO SHEDS LIGHT ON MORNINGSTAR

Elementals fans are always asking when **Bill Willingham,** the Elementals' creator, will find the time to write and draw an Elementals story. The answer is April of this year; that's when Willingham's ***Morningstar Special #1*** is set to be released. This one-shot, written, pencilled, and inked by Willingham, takes a closer look at Morningstar's life with her husband Ambrose in his faerie realm. This special not only brings readers up to date on what's going on with Morningstar and her new husband, it also teams her up with the virtually-indestructible Fantasia and sets into motion events that will affect upcoming issues of the ***Elementals***. ***Morningstar Special #1***, colored by **Julia Lacquement,** will read comic shop shelves on April 19th. The 32 page comic will carry a $2.50 pricetag.

DORMAN'S DOGGIE STACKS UP THE EXPLOITS OF MAN'S BEST FRIEND

Anyone who's ever owned a dog has his share of pet stories; **Frank Stack**, the popular alternative comics artist otherwise known as **Foolbert Sturgeon**, is no exception. Stack's upcoming Kitchen Sink Press collection, ***Dorman's Doggie***, is a collection of a variety of strips that Stack did for the Rip Off Press Syndicate in the 1970's, all dealing with the neurotic poodle Ping, owned by one Dorman Grammit Stack has also prepared some new material for the book, which will lead off with an introduction by **Harvey Pekar**. ***Dorman's Doggie*** is set for April release in both a $7.95 trade paperback and a $19.95 signed hardcover edition.

GRAPHIC NOVELS FOR THE BUDGET-CONSCIOUS

If your budget hasn't been healthy enough to support all the high quality hardcover graphic novels Marvel's been producing lately, cheer up, bunky! Marvel's offering several of its hardcover graphic novels in trade paperback later on this year, starting with the May 3rd release of the **Roger Stern/Mike Mignola/Mark Badger** ***Dr. Strange-Dr. Doom*** graphic novel (which has been out of print since days after its initial release), priced at $9.95. The next month, you can look forward to a trade paperback edition of the **Stan Lee/John Buscema** ***Silver Surfer*** graphic novel; it is set to ship on June 7th, priced at $10.95.

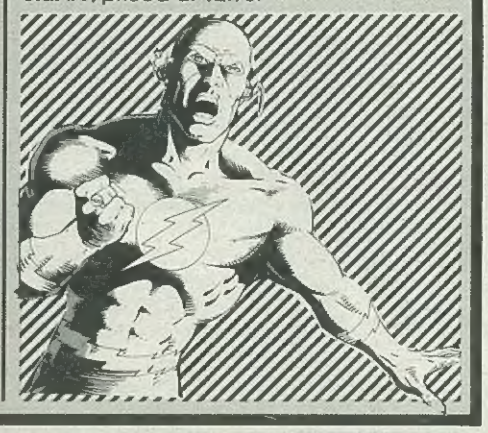
The Scorpio Connection, the **Archie Goodwin/Howard Chaykin** Wolverine-Nick Fury graphic novel, gets trade paperback treatment in early July for $12.95. Finally, the **Denny O'Neil/Mike Kaluta** ***Shadow: Hitler's Astrologer*** graphic novel should brighten your fall; it should appear in trade paperback in late October for $10.95.

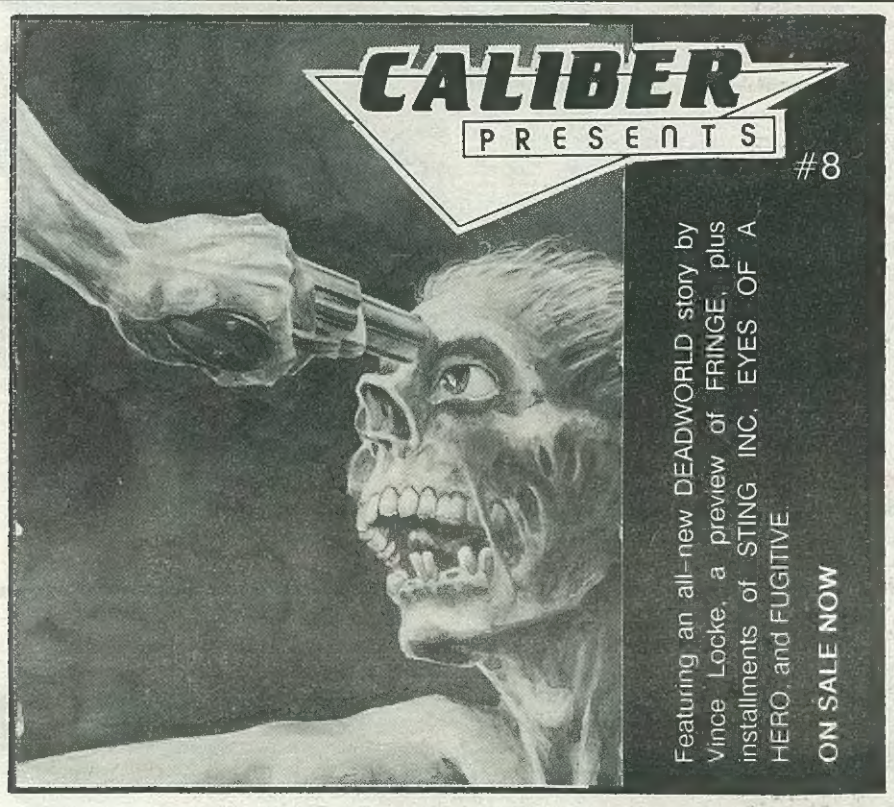
ALF RERUNS GET PRESTIGE TREATMENT

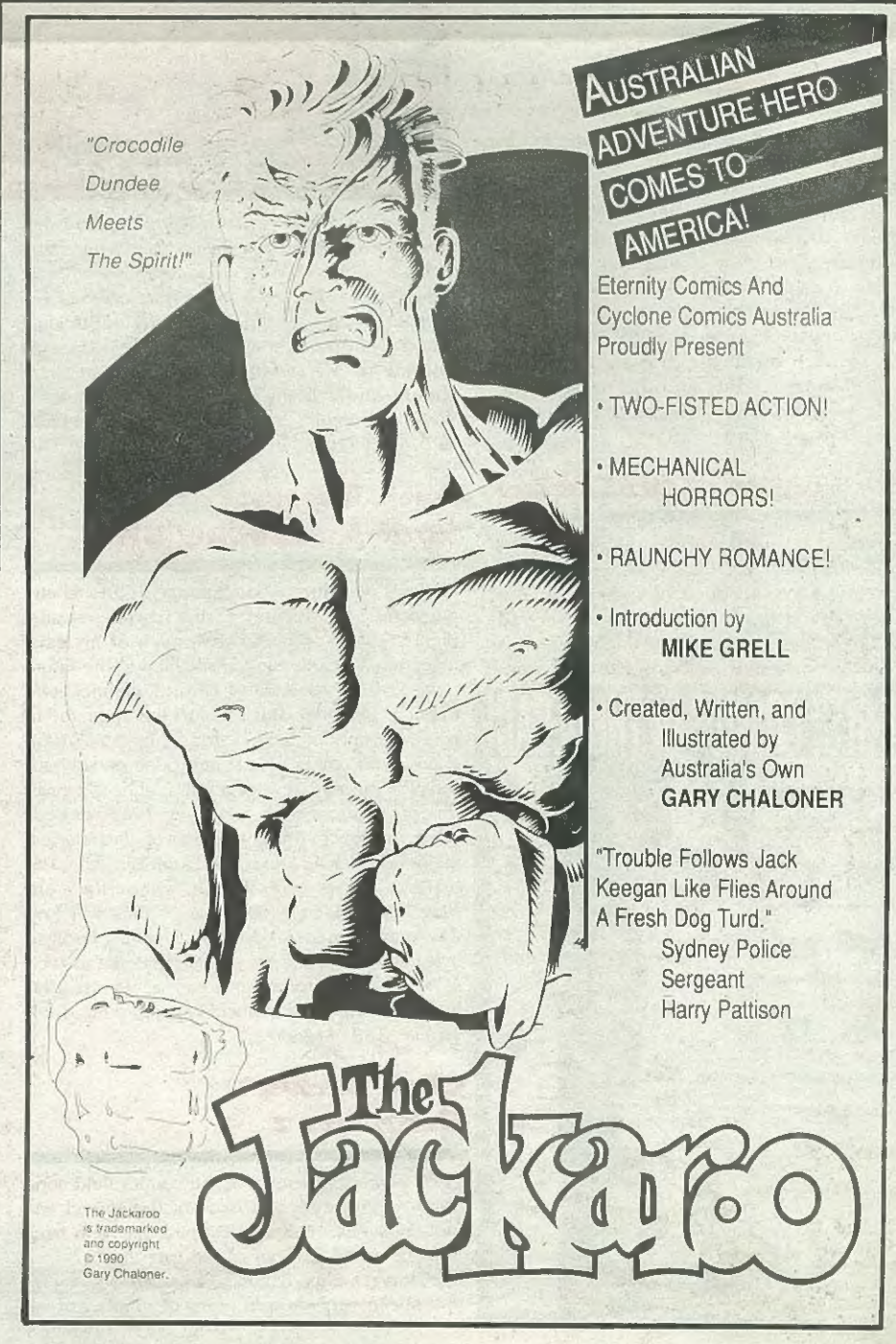
Alf Bookshelf Special #1, on sale April 19th, features the hard-to-find ***Alf #1***, along with ***Alf*** #2 and #3, in one bookshelf-format $4.95 volume. The bookshelf comic, based on the popular television show and animated feature, stars everyone's favorite Melmaccian. Just to make sure that everyone recognizes the Alfster, he appears in a photo front cover. **Gallagher, Manak,** and **Severin** bring Alf's exploits to comics in this extra-length collection.

HERE'S A NEWS FLASH

The Flash are back! That's not exactly a grammatical error, either, since we're not talking about one Flash or two Flashes here; we're talking about *all three* Flashes, who are featured in ***Flash Special #1***, scheduled for May 31st release. The first story in this 80-page special edition features the original *Golden Age Flash, Jay Garrick*, in a story by ***Len Strazewski, Irv Novick, and Dick Giordano.*** The second feature stars everyone's nostalgic Flash-fave, *Barry Allen*, in an adventure by **Gerard Jones, Carmine Infantino,** and **John Nyberg** (the same art team responsible for the ***Batman*** comic strip found in each issue of **CSN**!). Finally, *Wally West* stars in the final story, which is produced by **Bill Messner-Loebs** and **Paris Cullins.** A framing sequence connects the three tales; **Mark Waid, Mike Parobeck,** and **Jose Marzan, Jr.** are responsible for these framing pages. What could make this Special even more special? How about a **Joe Kubert** cover! That's the bonus you get with ***Flash Special #1***, priced at $2.95.




CALIBER
PRESENTS
#8
Featuring an all-new DEADWORLD story by Vince Locke, a preview of FRINGE, plus installments of STING INC, EYES OF A HERO, and FUGITIVE
ON SALE NOW


"Crocodile Dundee Meets The Spirit!"
AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURE HERO COMES TO AMERICA!
Eternity Comics And Cyclone Comics Australia Proudly Present
• TWO-FISTED ACTION!
• MECHANICAL HORRORS!
• RAUNCHY ROMANCE!
• Introduction by MIKE GRELL
• Created, Written, and Illustrated by Australia's Own GARY CHALONER
"Trouble Follows Jack Keegan Like Flies Around A Fresh Dog Turd." Sydney Police Sergeant Harry Pattison
The Jackaroo
The Jackaroo is trademarked and copyright © 1990 Gary Chaloner.

CSN HOT PICKS!

MARCH HOT PICKS!

The Top Two-Dozen

by Cliff Biggers

March heralds the beginning of spring--and that means the beginning of increased comic book output, particularly among the major companies. A collector trying to pick up everything this month would probably find his budget stretched to the limit--but here are the twenty-four must-have hot picks. Don't let these slip past you; it's unlikely they'll be on the stands for very long!

Adam Strange 1

This title was delayed from its late-January scheduled release date--but it's going to be just as impressive (and just as hot) in March as it would have been in the middle of winter. Richard Bruning and Andy Kubert humanize the archetypal comics- sf-adventurer in a new prestige-format series that should be this year's ***Hawkworld.*** (DC - $3.95)

Beauty & the Beast: Night of Beauty GN

Wendy Pini's first ***Beauty and the Beast*** graphic novel was praised by fans of the series for its deft handling of the characters; the second graphic novel will be equally character-driven, and while it will focus on Vincent and Catherine, it will reflect the many changes the series went through in its final episodes. ***Beauty and the Beast*** fans are extremely loyal; without the series to give them their regular B&B "fix," look for them to latch on to the graphic novel right away. The last Beauty and the Beast graphic novel was a smash success; you can expect this one to surpass it. (First - $5.95)

Best Comics of the Decade

Fantagraphics has taken on a difficult task--assembling a "best of" package that offers the highlights of the independent comics output of the 1980's--and has managed to do a very admirable job with it. Some fans might argue that the book is slanted towards Fantagraphics' books a bit and away from some of the other companies; considering the intense competition in the industry, it's quite an accomplishment that Fantagraphics managed to get the degree of cooperation that they did in selecting outstanding works from other companies. This is the first volume of a two-volume set; both of them should find a home on the bookshelves of a well-read comics fan. (Fantagraphics -$12.95 TPB, $39.95 HC)

Buck Rogers: Rude Awakening GN

Earlier, I described Adam Strange as an archetypal comics-sf-adventurer; this Earthman-transplanted-to-a-far-planet owes much of his existence to the Earthman-transplanted-to-the-future Buck Rogers, a seminal sf hero. For almost two thirds of a century, Buck Rogers has appeared in prose adventures, comic strips, films, television shows, and comic books; he's been notably absent for the past few years, though. TSR reacquaints readers with a revived (and revised) ***Buck Rogers*** in this graphic novel illustrated by major talents Paul Smith and Frank Cirocco. The real eye-catcher here, though, will be the stunning Frank Miller cover. Games fans will find this "graphic module" doubly interesting because it features Buck Rogers gaming material as well as a full-length graphic novel adventure that leads into this May's Buck Rogers comic book series. (TSR - $12.95)

Clive Barker's Hellraiser 2

Clive Barker's conquest of the comics field continues with the second issue of the Marvel anthology series. Eclipse's Tapping the Vein may have been the first out of the gate, but it looks like Marvel's Clive Barker's Hellraiser is going to pull ahead very soon in terms of number of issues published and reader support. Comics fans seem fascinated with the world of the Cenobites--and judging from the top-name talents who are turning out to do stories for this series, the professionals are equally intrigued. Barker seems destined to be a major comics phenomenon for 1990--and Marvel, with two Barker titles, has a significant portion of that market locked up! (Marvel - $4.95)

Classics Illustrated 7: The Count of Monte Cristo

Classics Illustrated 8: Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

The first four ***Classics*** were strong, stylish interpretations of very differently-styled literary works; this month, First Comics offers a pair of Classics that present strong adventure-suspense orient stories in a more standard comics form. Don't think I didn't enjoy the first four ***Classics***--I did! However, I think these two have a much stronger market out there--and they're likely to disappear from the stands much sooner than the first four ***Classics Illustrated*** did. ***Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*** is likely to be the hotter of the two--but neither one of them is going to gather dust on the racks. (First - $3.75 @)

Cobra 1, 2

What a great month for science fiction adventure! Viz gives readers an invigorating dose of sf-adventure manga-style with Cobra, the story of a roguish science fiction hero. ***CSN*** has already reviewed this comic, so you know just how good it is; I have a sneaking suspicion it'll be as successful as last year's ***Crying Freeman*** was for Viz. This comic has a broad-based appeal that extends beyond the manga-translation audience. (Viz - $2.95)

Conan 232

You've had ***Batman: Year One.*** You're looking forward to Daredevil: Year One. How about Conan: Year Zero? This issue of ***Conan*** begins Marvel's "revival" of the character; rather than pedestrian stories of barbarians, bludgeoning battles, and blustering wizards, Marvel is taking the Cimmerian back to his Thomas-and-Smith roots, courtesy of writer Mike Higgins and fan-fave artist Ron Lim. ***Conan*** has appealed to a small core audience for several years now; look for the book's readership to increase dramatically with this story that features Conan's father and leads up to the birth of the Howardian hero. (Marvel - $1)

Daredevil: Marked For Death TPB

Frank Miller brought a moribund character back to life in the early 1980's with his work on ***Daredevil*** (although, to give credit where credit is due, it was also the scripting of Roger McKenzie that made many of those early issues so memorable). Fans who can't afford the Big Bucks it takes to enjoy the early Miller issues can enjoy them for a bargain price in this trade paperback reprinting a heaping helping of prime McKenzie and Miller Daredevil stories, including the introduction of Bullseye and the memorable Daredevil-Hulk battle! (Marvel - $12.95)

Elsewhere Prince 1

Fantasy hasn't fared particularly well in the comics medium; for the most part, comics have been only marginally successful at capturing the essential wonder of the genre. A few creators have excelled in this field, though; two of them are Moebius and Eric Shanower. Moebius has spun some marvelous fantasy tales on his own;

CSN HOT PICKS!

Shanower has done several superb ***Oz*** graphic novels for First. The two of them are joining efforts on ***Elsewhere Prince***, and the end product is top-notch. Fantasy fans are sure to recognize this and reward this book with almost-immediate sellout status. (Epic - $1.95)

Ghost Rider 1

Ghost Rider is a great name for a comics character; my favorite Ghost Rider is the old Western hero, mind you, but it's such a quintessential comics-hero name that I ca see why Marvel keeps reviving it in one guise after another. This time around, the Ghost Rider is a grim, possessed vengeful spirit out to wreak havok on evildoers everywhere. Take a heaping helping of ***Punisher,*** toss in a little ***Spectre*** and a pinch of ***Dr. Strange***, and you have the new ***Ghost Rider*** courtesy of Mackie, Saltares and Texeira. (Oh, I might spice the recipe with a smidgen of ***Sandman*** and ***Hellblazer***--but then again, perhaps the series' creators have the same thing in mind further down the line.) This is the third major Marvel hero debut for 1990; judging from the smash success of the first two, this one won't sit on the shelves very long at all. (Marvel - $1.95

Marvel Comics 50

Have you noticed that comics fans find issues divisible by 50 to be particularly attractive for some reason? This time around, there's a very good reason: Erik Larsen's finale to the Wolverine/Spider-Man team-up story that began two issues before. The cover, featuring every hero who's appeared in the pages of ***Marvel Comics***, should be a hoot as well. (Marvel - $1.25)

Nightbreed 2

Earlier in this column, I talked about ***Clive Barker's Hellraiser*** book for Epic. Read what I said there. Apply it to this series, and add in an extra bit of interest because of the film's recent release, and you'll see why ***Nightbreed*** won't be dwelling on the racks for very long at all. (Epic - $1.95)

Legends of the Dark Knight 6

Remember the mega-successful Grant Morrison-written ***Arkham Asylum***? The same author tries his hand at Batman again in a five-issue storyline, "Gothic." This issue features the initial installment of the Morrison tale; and comic-art fans will be thrilled to hear that Morrison is joined by grim-and-gritty Klaus Janson, whose art style should mesh perfectly with any Batman tale. I expect this story to be even more appealing to Batman fans than the first ***Legends of the Dark Knight*** 5-parter was--which may take some stores by surprise! (DC - $1.50)

Lensman 1

Videodisc stores tell me that the ***Lensman*** disc is the most popular of all their important Japanese anime; I suspect this reflects the strong reputation this series has. Eternity is bringing ***Lensman*** to comics in a work based on that anime; it's being offered in a standard format and a deluxe format complete with a great deal of bonus material. For the money, the deluxe edition is your best buy--but neither one of them are going to linger on the comics racks. This is a delayed title that originally appeared on our February Hot Picks list; a thirty-day push back on the release date isn't going to cool down interest in the comic at all. (Eternity - $2.25 & $3.95)

Miracleman 17

This is another repeat-hot-pick. Eclipse initially scheduled this book for January release; they obviously didn't make it (in fact, Miracleman #16 isn't out as of this writing), but I have a letter from Dean Mullaney assuring me that Miracleman #16 is at the printer and should reach stores any day now--perhaps by the time you read this. If that's the case, we can look for Miracleman #17 in March, since both this issue and the one after it are already entirely finished. The incredible delays on the finale to Book Three may hurt that issue--but I don't think this issue, kicking off Miracleman Book Four, will suffer at all because of the lateness of its predecessor. (Eclipse - $1.95)

Spirit Casebook

Kitchen Sink begins its celebration of 50 Years of the Spirit by getting fans "in the Spirit" with a gala collection of some of Eisner's best Spirit tales. Many fans who haven't been following the Spirit regularly have asked for a "Spirit Primer" that would give them a starting point to enjoy the hero's adventures; this book does exactly that. (Kitchen Sink - $12.95 TPB, $25.95 s/n HC)

Overstreet Price Guide 20

If you tried to find last year's ***Overstreet Price Guide*** on sale any time after Thanksgiving, you know just how successful this comic book "bible" is. This year's edition, cover-featuring Silver Age DC heroes, already has a clamoring audience of fans who haven't been able to find a copy of the ***Overstreet Guide*** in comic shops in a while. Don't be surprised if the first orders sell out in record time! (Overstreet - $14.95 TPB, $19.95 HC)

Suicide Squad 40

How do you make a solid middle-level title become a respectable success? Simple: you destroy the team, then recreate them anew with the help of Batman. That's just what's going on in a four-part tale beginning in ***Suicide Squad 40***; I suspect that no one is fully anticipating the degree of response this recreated ***Suicide Squad*** will receive from fans who haven't previously read the series. (DC - $1)

Tales From the Crypt 1

It's often hard to get excited about a standard-format reprint comic book; but when the books being reprinted are classic EC's, and when the reprinter is Gladstone, the company who proved how faithfully it could reprint classic material with it's Disney titles, then there's reason to get excited. Each Gladstone EC reprint will feature 2 complete EC comic books with new non-comics material; this is the perfect item for those fans who couldn't afford the lavish EC Library volumes. (Gladstone - $1.95)

Tempus Fugitive 1

Ken Steacy is an artist's artist; he doesn't work in the field regularly enough to build a huge fan following, but his stylish, sophisticated art style is such a refreshing change that almost every artist loves to admire his detailed airbrush work. Everyone will have a chance to enjoy that work in this new prestige-format series that combines time travel and aerial combat. If only Ken could find the time to do a regular comic...*sigh*... (DC - $4.95)

X-Men Spotlight: Starjammers 1

Everyone constantly pesters Marvel to bring back Professor X. They've listened to you, guys; he's back in this two-issue special by Kavanagh, Cockrum, and Albrecht. Naturally, the book's focus is on the swashbuckling Starjammers--but Kavanagh has thrown in X-Factor, Excalibur, and the Imperial Starguard to make almost every mutant-fan happy. (Marvel -$4.50)

Overlooked Gem of the Month

Suburban Nightmares, a mini-series by the same minds behind Silent Invasion, was one of the most clever looks at American life in the 1950's that I have ever had the opportunity to read. From the Leave-It-to-Beaver-ish suburban optimism of the era to the cold-war mentality to the UFO-fears, Hancock and Cherkas have managed to incorporate it all into a marvelously entertaining series.

Since the series' publisher, Renegade Press, is defunct, a number of fans haven't had the opportunity to enjoy this insightful and entertaining work. That's why I'm so very glad that NBM is collecting that limited series into a single affordable trade paperback volume; now everyone can enjoy the talents of these two men without having to dig through back-issue boxes to do it. (NBM - $10.95)

NEWS & NOTES

BATMAN™ by Loebs, Infantino & Nyberg

GOOD EVENING, SIR. I SEE YOU SURVIVED YOUR RENDEZVOUS.
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
3-5-90
THE QURACI AMBASSADOR ASKED ME TO FIND HIS SON.
AND WHAT DID YOU DO?
I DISAPPEARED.
VERY DRAMATIC. WOULD YOU LIKE A CUP OF TEA?
SO, HAVE YOU SOLVED THE MYSTERY OF THE AMBASSADOR'S MISSING SON?
PERHAPS.
3-6-90
FEW CROOKS WOULD DARE TO HOLD THE BOY FOR RANSOM. THE QURACI SECRET POLICE TERRIFY THEM.
IT HAS TO BE THE PENGUIN. ONLY HE HAS THE NERVE! I MUST FIND HIM!
THE LAST TIME YOU FOUND HIM... AH, WELL. WHY DWELL ON THE PAST?
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
DEEP IN THE HIDDEN BATCAVE...
YOU SEE, ALFRED, THE PENGUIN IS A BRILLIANT, DARING FENCE. AND HE DEALS IN PEOPLE AS WELL AS THINGS.
3-7-90
I'VE SPENT THE NIGHT LOOKING FOR THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN STOLEN ...THINGS ONLY HE WOULD TOUCH!
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IF I TOLD YOU THAT OVER 50 SECRET GOVERNMENT PAPERS HAVE DISAPPEARED OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS?
SOMEONE HAS BEEN NAUGHTY, SIR.
THEY'VE TRIED TO HIDE THE THEFT OF THESE PAPERS, BUT THESE MEMOS CONFIRM IT!
HOW DOES THIS INVOLVE THE PENGUIN, IF ONE MAY ASK?
3-8-90
ONLY THE PENGUIN WOULD DARE FENCE ANYTHING THIS BIG... AND THE PENGUIN WILL LEAD ME TO THE AMBASSADOR'S SON.
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
"YOU SEE, ALFRED, ONLY FOUR MEN HAVE ACCESS TO THESE PAPERS."
READ!
THIS NIGHTMARE MUST END!
THESE ARE THE LAST PAPERS I STEAL FOR THE PENGUIN!
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
3-9-90
I FEEL AS THOUGH MY LUCK IS ABOUT TO RUN...
...OUT!
THE BATMAN! W-WHAT DO YOU WANT?
ONLY SOME INFORMATION, MR. HARRIS.
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERS
3-10-90
FOR INSTANCE ...THOSE PAPERS IN YOUR BRIEF-CASE... ARE THEY STOLEN?
G-GET BACK!
I'M A POWERFUL MAN! NO ONE CAN PROVE ANYTHING!
I'LL TAKE THAT TO MEAN "YES!"

Conan: Year One!

"That's not the title but it's a fairly accurate decription of the exciting storyline that takes Conan in a brand-new direction starting with ***Conan #232***," Marvel's **Kurt Busiek** said. "This series is set well before ***Conan #1*** and tells the story of a young, inexperienced Conan who is yet to grow into the deadly barbarian ***Conan*** fans know and love."

Conan #232 will be the first issue of a revitalization of the ***Conan*** series. In recent years, many fans have lamented that Conan has settled into a demon-of-the-month sort of book that hasn't been as exciting or entertaining as the early issues. That's why writer Mike Higgins and artist Ron Lim have decided to return Conan to his roots in hopes of re-establishing the character as the flagship Marvel fantasy hero of the 1990's.

The first issue of this new start for ***Conan*** will be on sale March 22nd; in its pages, readers will meet Conan's father and grandfather and find out just what sort of background produced the barbaric Cimmerian. This issue will climax with the birth of Conan.

Ron Lim, one of Marvel's most prolific artists, has found time to pencil ***Conan*** as well as his other two ongoing titles, ***Captain America and Silver Surfer***. He is being joined on ***Conan*** by inker Dan Adkins, who has some ***Conan*** history of his own; Adkins inked many of the early Barry Smith issues of the title. Speaking of Smith, a glimpse at Ron Lim's art on ***Conan*** shows a strong Barry Windsor-Smith influence that should please longtime Conan readers. Look for the excitement to begin again in late March with ***Conan #232***. Each issue of Conan is priced at $1.

Jugger Heads Up Alien Legion Storyline

Alien Legion #17, on sale April 26th, will feature one of the most-demanded stories in Alien Legion history: the origin of Jugger, "the toughest grunt this side of Cestil" The story not only reveals a great deal about Jugger, it also reveals a great deal about the world of the Alien Legion. Chuck Dixon, Larry Stroman, and Mark Farmer bring readers this behind-the-scenes look at the world of Jugger in a story that also marks a perfect entry point for fans who haven't previously been reading ***Alien Legion***.

What's That Buzz?

Now Comics has announced the creative team for the Van Williams-plotted ***Green Hornet*** mini-series scheduled to begin in May. Robert Ingersoll will script the two issue series that pits the Green Hornet and Kato against an Oriental drug-smuggling ring; Dell Barras will illustrate both issues.

In other Green Hornet news, Now has signed Matt Wagner to provide the cover for ***Green Hornet #10***, scheduled for early May release. Wagner joins such talents as Steranko, Dave Dorman, Steve Rude, and Bill Sienkiewicz, all of whom have provided covers for the series in the past.

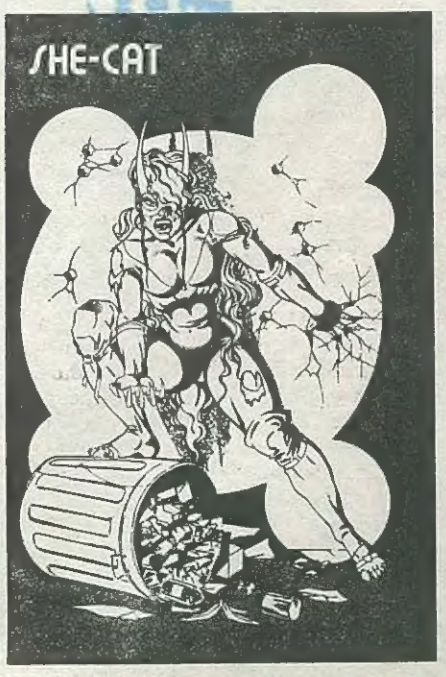
Pin It On Planet Studios

Planet Studios, that's who! The Planet Studios line of cloisonne pins grows even more in March with the release of another half-dozen colorful pins sure to please Marvel fans. Planet will be offering three hero-figure pins: Sub-Mariner, the Hulk, and Wolverine (which is based on Arthur Adams Wolverine). In addition, the new Ghost Rider's arrival is heralded with a Ghost Rider head-pin, and you can look like a Damage Control expert with the Damage Control emblem-pin. Finally, Moebius' Major Grubert is featured on his own pin, in all his helmeted glory. Planet Studios' pins are priced at $5.95 each.

NEWS & NOTES

The Uncanny She-Cat

If you aren't getting your minimum daily requirement of She-Cat in the AC Comics series, then maybe you should keep an eye out for the upcoming ***She-Cat poster*** from AC. This 17" x 33" poster, priced at $5, will feature Bill Marimon's and John Beatty's art from the cover of ***She-Cat #8.*** If you want something a little rarer, maybe you'll want to spring for the $7.50 autographed version of the same poster. This edition is signed by both Marimon and Beatty. Otherwise, both editions are the same; each is printed on 110-lb. enamel gloss paper.



Marvel Ventures Among Madmen

Among Madmen, the Jim Starlin-Daina Graziunas novel previously cover-featured in CSN, will be distributed by Marvel Comics in April. This means that comics fans won't have to make an extra trip to a non-comics bookstore to find this novel; instead, the heavily-illustrated book can be acquired at the same place you got this CSN! Just let your local comics shop know that you want a copy of Among Madmen and your worries are over--and while you're at it, tell 'em you heard about it in ***CSN***...

Have you seen anything in this issue of ***Comic Shop News*** that you can't live without? Make sure you don't miss it; clip this handy coupon and write down the things that you want you comics shop owner to be sure to get for you!

Name_____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

I gotta have 'em! Please reserve for me the following items mentioned in ***Comic Shop News!***

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Be sure to give this to your retailer. Do not send it to CSN! Your comics shop will make every effort to get the items you want; some items may require a down payment before your shop owner can get them for you; be sure to ask!

Gladstone Finishes the Job

Last summer, Gladstone offered a three-volume hardcover set of ***Gladstone's Disney Graphic Albums***; this set was limited to a thousand copies, and each set was individually numbered. The books featured smythe-sewn leatherette binding with a gold-stamped image of Mickey and Donald embossed on each cover. These volumes featured the first fifteen ***Gladstone Graphic Albums,*** leaving many collectors wondering if there would be a companion series to finish the collection.

Wonder no longer, Disney fans! In May, Gladstone will release ***Disney Graphic Albums 16-28*** and ***Gladstone Giant Album 1-7*** in a deluxe five-volume set designed to match the original three volumes in every way. This set, bearing a total price of $250, will offer the remainder of the complete ***Disney Graphic Album*** series in high-quality hardcovers sure to increase in value once the thousand copy edition sells out

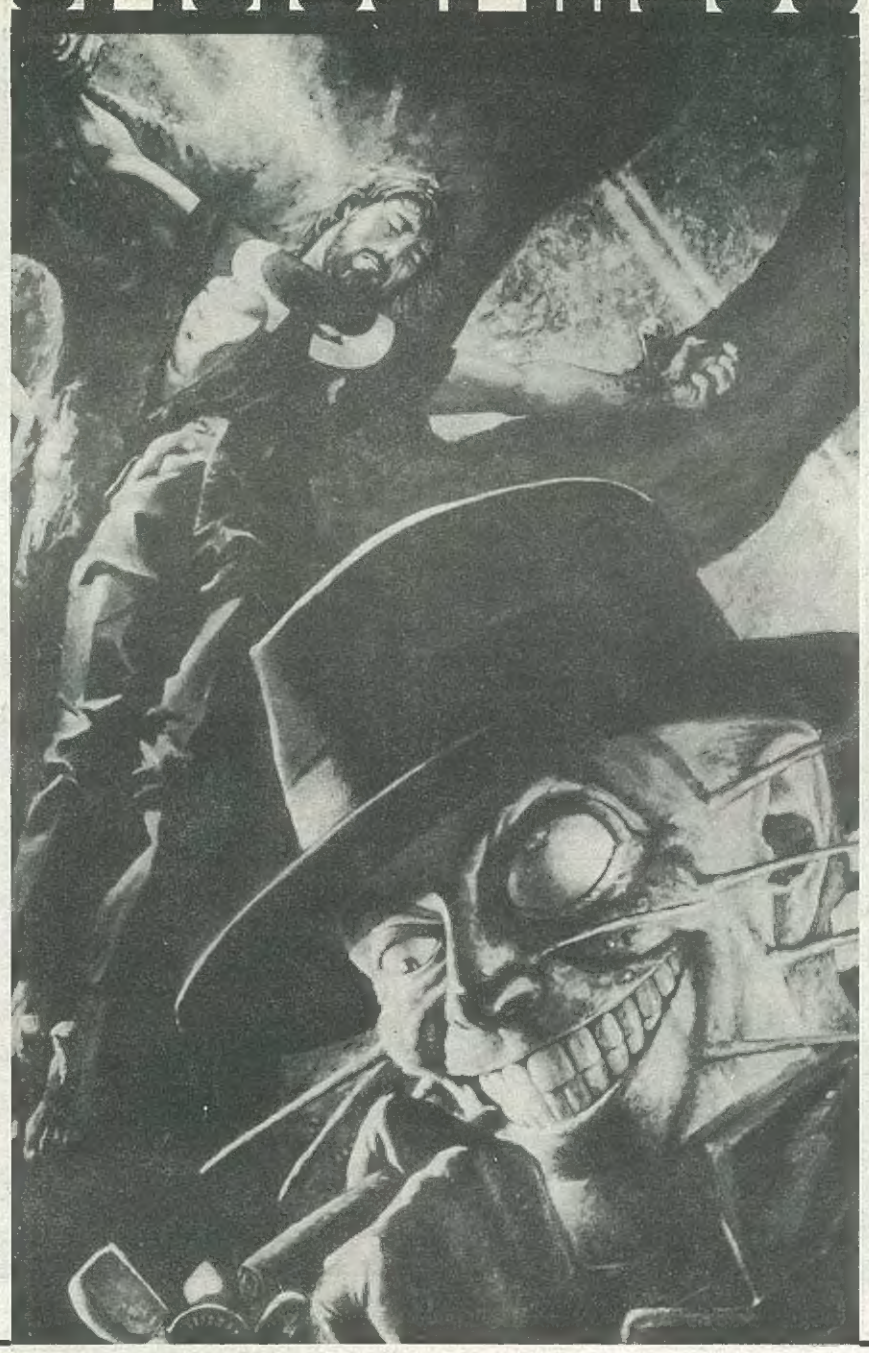
Antarctic Has Perfect Memory

Antarctic Press has announced the upcoming release of ***Ninja High School: Perfect Memory Volume One***, a retrospective of **Ben Dunn**'s hit series. ***The Perfect Memory*** volume will contain a synopsis of every Ninja High School issue published so far, a multitude of unpublished Ben Dun artwork, fan art that didn't quite make it into the letters page, character designs and analyses of the entire cast, detailed schematics of mecha, and a new Ninja High School story that will not appear in the ongoing series. "***Ninja High School: Perfect Memory Volume One*** was created to enlighten both old and new readers," Ben Dunn said. "***Ninja High School*** has become a mythos that the fans want to know more about." Priced at $3.95, Perfect Memory will feature 100 pages of material; look for it to appear in comic shops in May.

COPYRIGHT NOTICES: *Buck Rogers*©1990 TSR, *New Mutants, Punisher, Conan, Elsewhere Prince,* ©1990 Marvel Comics, *Hellraiser* ©1990 Clive Barker, *Cobra* ©1990 Viz, *Spirit* ©1990 Will Eisner, *Miracleman*©1990 Alan Moore, *Flash, Batman Legend of the Dark Knight, Tempest Fugitive, The Demon* ©1990 DC Comics, *The Best Comics Of The Eighties* ©1990 Fantagraphics, *Lt. Blueberry* ©1990 Moebius, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* ©1990 Mirage Studios, *Elementals* ©1990 Bill Willingham.

AS THE WORLD IS PUSHED CLOSER TO THE EDGE OF A NUCLEAR NIGHTMARE, VENGEANCE IS PUSHED TO THE EDGE OF INSANITY...AND BEYOND...

critical mass™



A SHADOWLINE SAGA™ continues in part three of this exciting bookshelf format series.

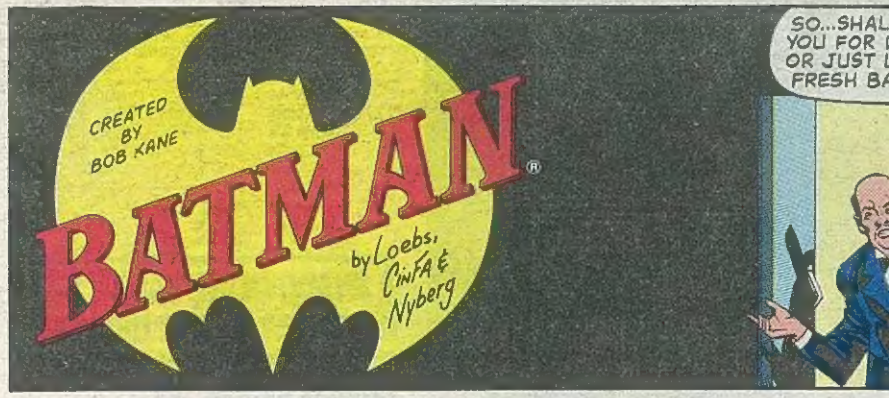
Written by D.G. Chichester *and* Margaret Clark

Art by Denys Cowan, John Ridgway, Gray Morrow, Ron Randall *and* Kent Williams

Cover by John Bolton

On Sale Now *from* EPIC COMICS®

A Shadowline Saga: Critical Mass: TM & © 1990 Epic Comics. All rights reserved. Epic Comics is a registered trademark of Epic Comics.

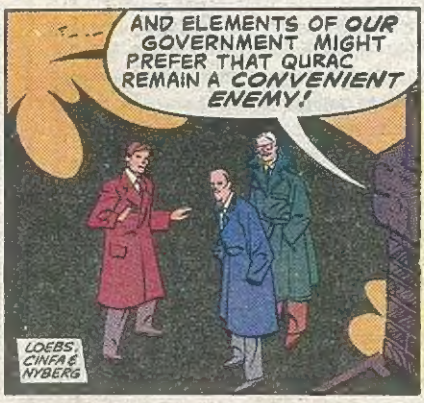


® TM DC Comics Inc. © 1990 All Rights Reserved. Dist. By Creators Syndicate, Inc.

L I EXPECT
DINNER, SIR?
AY OUT SOME
NDAGES...

...WHICH YOU CAN SLIP INTO WHEN YOU RETURN?

MR. AMBASSADOR, ELEMENTS OF YOUR OWN GOVERNMENT MIGHT WISH YOU LESS FRIENDLY TO THE U.S. ...
I AM NO PUPPET TO BE MANIPULATED BY TERROR, GENTLEMEN, BUT THIS IS MY SON WE SPEAK OF!


AND ELEMENTS OF OUR GOVERNMENT MIGHT PREFER THAT QURAC REMAIN A CONVENIENT ENEMY!
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG

WILL YOU PLEASE TRY...?
BUT THE BATMAN HAS GONE!